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NOTICES FROM THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

PREPARED BY MEMBERS OF THE STAFF.

A. A. A. S. MEETING, 1895.

At a special meeting of the Council, held on January 26, it was decided to postpone the proposed meeting in San Francisco. An invitation from Springfield, Mass., to hold the meeting of 1895 in that city was accepted. The date of the meeting was fixed as follows: Council meeting, Wednesday, August 28, at noon; general sessions, Thursday, August 29, at 10 A.M.

F. W. PUTNAM, Permanent Sec'y.

SALEM, MASS., Jan. 30, 1895.

STANDARD TIME IN THE AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES.

The following note has been contributed by General W. J. PALMER:

MELBOURNE, Jan. 31, 1895.

The Australasian colonies have decided to adopt the standard zone time from midnight to-night. By the new mode of reckoning, Victorian time will be advanced 20 minutes, thus making Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane time alike,— 10 hours ahead of Greenwich — while Adelaide will be 9 hours ahead, Perth 8, and Wellington 11.—*Reuter's Telegram.*

A WHITE RAINBOW.

On February 24, about 10:30 A.M., a white rainbow was visible for about five minutes. It faded away, and reappeared again about ten minutes later.

The clouds were breaking away after a storm of several days' duration, and at intervals the sun would pierce them, the canyons remaining filled with cloud. It was against such a mass of mist in the north canyon that this rainbow appeared. At no time were any prismatic colors seen. C. D. P.

LICK OBSERVATORY, February 24, 1895.

METEOR SEEN IN NEVADA, MARCH 2, 1895.

VIRGINIA (NEV.), March 2.—A meteor of unusual size and brilliancy flashed across the sky, from the western to the eastern horizon, at 5:15 o'clock this morning. Its course was slightly north of east, and during its passage, the town was illuminated with a glare more dazzling than sunlight.

A local observer, who had an uninterrupted view of the flight of the visitor, says it shot out of the western horizon, from behind Mount Davidson. Its appearance was heralded by a noise like the roar of an approaching tempest, which swelled into tones resembling those of distant thunder, as it swept over the town. When it reached the zenith, the light radiating from it was of blinding brilliancy, and its course was marked by a trail of fire. Its contact with the Earth was followed by an explosion, the report of which was heard two minutes afterward. The point of collision was apparently in the range of hills east of Fort Churchill, about 30 miles distant from here. When it struck the earth, the flying particles of matter appeared to cover an area of several square miles.

RENO (NEV.), March 2.—At 5:48 o'clock this morning, a large ball of fire became visible in the southwestern heavens, and exploded with terrific force.

Early risers report the meteor a most magnificent sight. An eye-witness said that his attention was first attracted by a rushing noise in the heavens. He glanced in the direction whence the noise came and saw a great ball of fire. The sight so startled him that he involuntarily dodged. He watched the ball of fire pass through the heavens, expecting to see it fall somewhere within the limits of the city. It passed out of sight in a southerly direction. In about one or two minutes thereafter, there was the rumbling sound of an explosion, and the windows and doors of the surrounding buildings rattled, and the ground under his feet shook.

There was talk of a searching party going out to endeavor to discover the landing-place of the meteor; but when those who saw it fall compared notes, it was ascertained that at least one or two minutes elapsed between its fall and the sound of the explosion. The sound of the explosion was so loud that many who were sleeping were aroused. They thought that the powder magazine had exploded.—S. F. *Chronicle*, March 3.

DEATH OF JOSEPH A. DONOHOE.

JOSEPH A. DONOHOE, a life member of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific and founder of its Comet-Medal, died in San .Francisco on April 5th, 1895, at the age of 69 years. Mr. DONOHOE had been a resident of California since its early days (1850). Until 1861 he was engaged in mercantile business, and since that time he was the head of the DONOHOE-KELLY Banking Company of San Francisco. He took much interest in the establishment of the Astronomical Society and in the founding of the medal which bears his name, although he was too busy a man to have more than a literary interest in science. E. S. H.

THE STUDY OF ATMOSPHERIC CURRENTS BY THE AID OF LARGE TELESCOPES, AND THE EFFECT OF SUCH CURRENTS ON THE QUALITY OF THE SEEING.

Mr. A. E. DOUGLAS, astronomer in the LOWELL Observatory, Arizona, has printed in the *American Meteorological Journal*, Vol. II, p. 397, an article with the above title. It is a study of the air currents which are to be seen within the tubes of large telescopes, and which are such enemies to the best definition. All users of large telescopes are familiar with the phenomenon. Dr. HENRY DRAPER, somewhere about the year 1878, commenced a study of it; but nothing has been printed on the subject, I believe, until the article by Mr. DOUGLAS, except the paper by VENTOSA (*Amer. Meteor. Jour.*, Vol. 7, page 89), on a method of determining .the direction of the wind by observations of the undulations at the margins of the discs of the heavenly bodies. The question is too special to be treated here, but attention is called to this interesting paper in order that those more especially concerned may consult it. Copies of the *Journal* may be obtained from GINN & Co., 7 Tremont Place, Boston, for thirty cents. E. S. H.